

## Getting Started

Before you even look at the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, you should study the information presented in Appendix A. This is critical information for interpreting and implementing the standards. For each of the guided study exercises, you will have pre-reading directions with a suggestion for text annotation. You will also find directions for an activity to help you process and document your learning.

The activities are designed to be fairly brief, each taking 20 to 30 minutes to complete. They will also provide you materials for a portfolio if you would like to start a CCSS implementation collection. Information and professional development activities provide throughout the modules all assume that you are familiar with the information in Appendix A.

Once you complete your study, we suggest you begin your unpacking and alignment with reading, Standard 10. This one must be implemented correctly as it so profoundly affects the rest. Reading standards 1-9 should be considered with the six standards in the language strand as these are intended to be paired with or embedded in the instruction of each of the other strands. You should also get familiar with Appendix B and the Student Performance Tasks found there.

Moving to the writing strand, we suggest also beginning with standard 10 as well. As you unpack 1-9, look again to the language strand to embed instruction and inform rubric development. Use Appendix C as a guide to consider student examples of the writing standards in action.

Speaking and Listening has only six standards, three for each area. These should also be considered with the language standards. Check our website frequently as we add new information and tools often.

Where to look, what to do:

ELA CCSS Maine home page: <http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/ela/elem.html> This page presents all ELA CCSS documents chunked or grouped in various configurations to assist your study and use of the documents.

Click on Professional Development navigation bar, left side of page:  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/ela/9to12.html> This page features links to three modules – introduction, alignment, and implementation.

### Module 1: Introduction

Find here materials from live presentations and resources for developing familiarity with ELA CCSS, the history of the initiative, and direction for implementation.

## Module 2: Alignment

Begin by viewing a webinar about alignment which emphasizes vertical and horizontal alignment of standards. Examine your instructional practices and curriculum to determine where you might have gaps to be filled.

## Module 3: Implementation

Once you know where your gaps exist, take advantage of resources to fill those gaps. Likely gaps for educators who are currently teaching the MLR may include vocabulary instruction, foundational skills, and reading and writing about nonliterary texts.